

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5 are pending in the present application. Claim 6 have been added by this Amendment. No claims have been cancelled by this Amendment. Therefore upon entry of this instant Amendment claims 1-3, 5, and 6 are still pending.

Claim 5 has been allowed.

Applicants have added limitation of claim 5 to claim 3:

“and for scoring each bit for a decoding of a received soft QAM symbol by the minimum squared distance from corresponding symbols of the QAM constellation defined by said each bit to the real or imaginary part of said received soft QAM symbol.”

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Vijayan et al. (US Patent 6,151,296).

Applicants have amended claim 1 to have the limitation of a plurality of convolutional encoders for receiving data values, each of said convolutional encoder concatenated with an outer Reed-Solomon encoder and an interleaver memory, wherein each encoder generates a portion of the data values to said interleaver memory;

Vijayan et al. (US Patent 6,151,296) alone or in combination fails to teach such limitations.

Drawings have been objected to. Drawings have been amended to provide reference number and spec has been amended according to said reference numbers—no new matter has been added. New replacements sheets are submitted herewith.

Applicants believe this application and the claims herein to be in a condition for allowance and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance or timely Advisory Action. Please charge any additional fees, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0668. Should the Examiner have further inquiry concerning these matters, please contact the below named attorney for Applicants.

Respectfully submitted:

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